

25.1**Subject and Verb Agreement (Compound Subjects) • Practice 1**

Compound Subjects A singular subject after *or* takes a singular verb. A plural subject after *or* takes a plural verb. Compound subjects joined by *and* take a plural verb unless they are thought of as one thing or modified by *every* or *each*.

AGREEMENT WITH COMPOUND SUBJECTS	
Joined by <i>or</i> or <i>nor</i>	Ed, Sue, or Pam <i>has</i> a good chance of winning. Neither the cats nor the dogs <i>eat</i> table scraps. Either the servants or the owner <i>shows</i> tourists around. Either the owner or the servants <i>show</i> tourists around.
Joined by <i>and</i>	Hot dogs and hamburgers <i>are</i> traditional picnic foods. Ian and Pete <i>are</i> on the same team. Bacon, lettuce, and tomato <i>is</i> my favorite sandwich. Every man, woman, and child <i>has</i> a separate seat.

Exercise 1 Compound Subjects Joined by *Or* or *Nor*. Write the verb form from parentheses that agrees with the subject in each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Louise or her sisters are usually home in the evening. (is, are)

- Neither Elmer nor his children _____ fried chicken. (like, likes)
- Pat, Dana, or Tony _____ a good person to ask for directions. (is, are)
- The twins or their sister _____ for the Harpers. (baby-sit, baby-sits)
- Either Dad or Mom _____ bought corn for dinner. (has, have)
- Nelly, Dobbin, or Prince _____ a good name for the horse. (is, are)
- Erik or the twins _____ always welcome here. (is, are)
- Neither Dawn nor her mother _____ faddish clothes. (buy, buys)
- Either the magician himself or his assistants _____ up the audience. (warm, warms)
- Mom or my brothers _____ sweet rolls on Sunday morning. (get, gets)
- Kim or Kelly _____ the daily paper. (deliver, delivers)

Exercise 2 Compound Subjects Joined by *And*. Write the verb form from parentheses that agrees with the subject in each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Peanut butter and jelly is a favorite sandwich with children. (is, are)

- My brother and sister _____ been very cooperative lately. (has, have)
- Every glass and plate in the house _____ dirty after the party. (was, were)
- Both the painter and the carpenter _____ coming today. (is, are)
- The chairs and table _____ made of oak. (is, are)
- The Stars and Stripes _____ the United States. (represent, represents)

25.1**Subject and Verb Agreement (Compound Subjects) • Practice 2**

Exercise 1 Making Compound Subjects Agree With Their Verbs. Write the verb form from parentheses that agrees with the subject in each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Either Kelly or Jim plays the lead role. (play, plays)

1. The door and the window _____ stuck. (is, are)
2. Neither Mother nor Father _____ phoned. (has, have)
3. The dog or the cats _____ always howling. (is, are)
4. Apples and bananas _____ been my favorite fruits for years. (has, have)
5. Mary or Louise _____ to the bridge club. (belongs, belong)
6. Each morning Tom or the children _____ fresh rolls at the bakery. (buys, buy)
7. Both the man with the appliances and the plumber _____ arrived. (has, have)
8. My son and daughter _____ never been so cooperative. (has, have)
9. Mark and David _____ in the office yet. (isn't, aren't)
10. Two large packages and a letter _____ delivered. (was, were)
11. Either the children or I _____ into town for the mail. (walks, walk)
12. Joan and Ellen _____ called in a month. (hasn't, haven't)
13. My car or Ted's _____ always available. (is, are)
14. His messiness and my chattering _____ Mother. (annoys, annoy)
15. Every cup and saucer _____ broken in the move. (was, were)

Exercise 2 Making Compound Subjects Agree With Their Verbs in Sentences. Write a sentence for each compound subject, making sure that the compound subject and verb agree.

EXAMPLE: time and temperature

The time and temperature are displayed on the sign in front of the bank.

1. neither Jason nor Julie

2. radio and television

3. computers and the Internet

4. beets, carrots, or celery

5. an apple or a banana

Subject Verb Agreement

Circle the correct verb choice.

1. The flakes in this cereal (taste/tastes) like sawdust.
2. The woman with the dark sunglasses (is/are) out mayor.
3. Many people in Europe (speaks/speak) several language.
4. The red-haired boy by the swings (is/are) my son.
5. A person in my classes (sleep/sleeps) through most of the lectures.
6. The lights across the river (is/are) reflected in the dark water.
7. The stores near campus (charge/charges) too much for most items.
8. The doors to the apartment (appear/appears) to have been forced open.
9. The writing in these romance novels (is/are) truly terrible.
10. The yard between our houses (serve/serves) as a softball field.
11. Here (is/are) some messages for you.
12. Beside the stream (stands/stand) a low wooden fence.
13. On the bench outside the mall (rests/rest) two tired shoppers.
14. On the table in the dining room (lies/lie) a letter for you.
15. In that little garden (grows/grow) twenty herbs.
16. Either the trash can or your socks (smells/smell) horrible.
17. The children and Kara (lives/live) in a houseboat.
18. Neither the fish nor the vegetables (tastes/taste) fresh in this restaurant.
19. French fries or a baked potato (sounds/sound) good to me for dinner.
20. Her sisters or she usually (donates/donate) a cake or cookies to the community bake sale.
21. Neither Polly nor her brothers (seems/seem) surprised by their parent's announcement.
22. Some flowers or a bush (is/are) needed by the driveway.
23. Bananas and peanut butter (goes/go) well together.
24. Jogging or walking (is/are) a good way to relieve stress.
25. Either my grandparents or my father (baby sits/baby sit) for me every Friday.

25.2**Pronoun and Antecedent Agreement****(Between Personal Pronouns and Antecedents) • Practice 2**

Exercise 1 Making Personal Pronouns Agree With Their Antecedents. Write an appropriate personal pronoun to complete each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Either Mark or Bill will drive his car.

1. Mrs. Berger described _____ plans for the new store.
2. Carol will read _____ own report.
3. The goat shook _____ head in confusion.
4. My father gave us _____ secret recipe for muffins.
5. The city officials explained _____ reasons for the curfew.
6. Marie sealed the letter; then _____ tore it open again.
7. Neither Nancy nor Carol explained _____ position.
8. Uncle Roy sent us a package, but _____ never arrived.
9. I told John and Irene that _____ should be here by noon.
10. The nurse asked us about _____ eating habits.

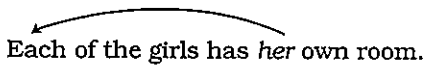
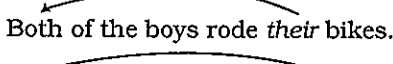
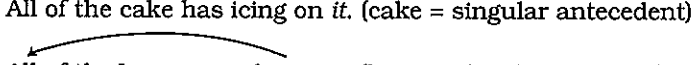
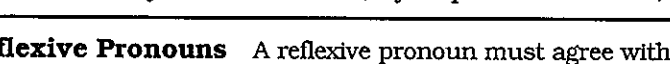
Exercise 2 Making Personal Pronouns Agree With Their Antecedents. Write an appropriate personal pronoun to complete each sentence in the paragraph.

EXAMPLE: Neither Jill nor Suzy wore (1) her coat in the mall.

Joel and Henry ran along the path, each one wondering how much longer (1) _____ could last. It was a cool day, and (2) _____ both were in good shape. Still, (3) _____ had been running for about forty minutes, and for each of (4) _____, this was a sufficient amount of exercise. Joel looked over at (5) _____ best friend and saw that (6) _____ did not even seem tired. Henry looked over at Joel and felt that (7) _____ was not even out of breath. "Say, Joel," said Henry. "Are (8) _____ about ready to stop?" "Not yet," said Joel. "Why? Is this too much for (9) _____?" "Not at all," said Henry. "My mom just told (10) _____ this morning that she thought (11) _____ was getting stronger every day. Since you and (12) _____ started this program, I've been improving. I just thought that (13) _____ might be getting tired." "No," said Joel. "(14) _____ stamina has increased during the past few weeks. Let's keep running." As the two friends continued (15) _____ run, each one hoped that the other would stop soon.

25.2**Pronoun and Antecedent Agreement (With Indefinite Pronouns and With Reflexive Pronouns)****• Practice 1**

Agreement with Indefinite Pronouns Use a singular personal pronoun when the antecedent is a singular indefinite pronoun. Use a plural personal pronoun when the antecedent is a plural indefinite pronoun. With an indefinite pronoun that can be either singular or plural, agreement depends on the antecedent of the indefinite pronoun.

AGREEMENT WITH INDEFINITE PRONOUNS
 <p>Each of the girls has <i>her</i> own room.</p>
 <p>Both of the boys rode <i>their</i> bikes.</p>
 <p>All of the cake has icing on <i>it</i>. (cake = singular antecedent)</p>
 <p>All of the boys wore <i>their</i> ties. (boys = plural antecedent)</p>

Agreement with Reflexive Pronouns A reflexive pronoun must agree with an antecedent that is clearly stated.

REFLEXIVE PRONOUN AGREEMENT	
Incorrect	Correct
The trouble between Sue and <i>myself</i> arose over jealousy.	The trouble between Sue and <i>me</i> arose over jealousy.

Exercise 1

Making Personal Pronouns Agree With Indefinite Pronouns. Write an appropriate personal pronoun to complete each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Each of the houses must have a street number on it.

- Some of the wood has insects in _____.
- Several of the players have purchased extra uniforms on _____ own.
- Most of the coins have mold on _____.
- Neither of those books has much useful information in _____.
- Somebody from the League of Women Voters said _____ would speak to us.
- Most of my friends get along well with _____ families.
- Little of the yard has grass growing in _____.
- Anybody from that Boy Scout troop will gladly show you _____ catalog.
- Do all of the brownies have nuts in _____?
- Many of those homes have alarm systems in _____.

Exercise 2

Using Reflexive Pronouns Correctly. Underline the misused reflexive pronoun in each sentence. Write the correct pronoun on the line.

EXAMPLE: Both Jim and yourself should come. you

- Give that to myself when you're finished with it. _____
- The Palmers invited the Youngs and ourselves for dinner. _____
- Trudy and herself share a room. _____
- Luis and myself will take the dog for a walk. _____
- We hope Alice and yourself can go on the picnic. _____

25.2**Pronoun and Antecedent Agreement (With Indefinite Pronouns and With Reflexive Pronouns)****• Practice 2****Exercise 1**

Making Personal Pronouns Agree With Indefinite Pronouns. Write the correct pronoun to complete each sentence.

EXAMPLE: All of the boys lost their money. (his, their)

1. Few at the conference gave _____ approval. (its, their)
2. Every one of the boys has _____ instructions. (his, their)
3. Each of the girls is responsible for _____ own room. (her, their)
4. Neither of the boys agreed to ask _____ parents. (his, their)
5. Every one of the girls agreed to ask _____ opinion. (her, their)
6. One of the fellows will have to volunteer _____ time. (his, their)
7. Both of my aunts sent _____ congratulations. (her, their)
8. Several of the men volunteered _____ service. (his, their)
9. Each of the women was given _____ lieutenant bars. (her, their)
10. Neither of the men could remember _____ number. (his, their)
11. Each of the ballerinas gave us _____ autograph. (her, their)
12. All of the women refused to give _____ consent. (her, their)
13. Several of the ships had _____ sails destroyed. (its, their)
14. Each of the boys must pay _____ dues soon. (his, their)
15. Some of the foods had lost _____ flavor. (its, their)
16. Neither of the girls brought _____ new records. (her, their)
17. Most soldiers in the battalion admired _____ lieutenant. (his, their)
18. Nobody in the boys' group brought _____ radio. (his, their)
19. Each of the sales women announced _____ results. (her, their)
20. Only one of the committees gave _____ consent. (its, their)

Exercise 2

Using Reflexive Pronouns Correctly. Rewrite each sentence, correcting the misused reflexive pronoun.

EXAMPLE: Both Todd and myself are going to the game.

Both Todd and I are going to the game.

1. Bob and I think the best person for this job is yourself.

2. The Parkinsons and ourselves went to the opera together.

3. Neither Francine nor myself knew who left the package.

4. A guard directed the teacher and ourselves to the entrance.

5. Sal was worried that he would hurt himself or myself.

25.2**Pronoun and Antecedent Agreement (Four Special Problems) • Practice 1**

Four Special Problems in Pronoun Agreement A personal pronoun should have a clear, single, close, and logical antecedent, stated or understood.

Problems	Corrections
<i>They</i> make a lot of mistakes in the paper.	Newspaper stories are not always accurate. That paper has many typographical errors.
Bruce told Danny <i>his</i> mother was sick.	Bruce told Danny that Danny's mother was sick. Bruce told Danny that Bruce's mother was sick.
When Joyce invited Anna and her family to come for the weekend, <i>she</i> forgot to check the date.	When Joyce invited Anna and her family ..., Joyce forgot to check the date when she invited Anna and ...
In English literature <i>you</i> will read Shakespeare and Milton.	A student of English literature will read Shakespeare and Milton.

Exercise 1 Solving Special Problems in Pronoun Agreement. Write the word or words from parentheses that best complete each sentence.

EXAMPLE: I thought the forecasters said it would rain today. (they, the forecasters)

- The form says _____ must mail the entries by June 1. (you, contestants)
- Mike spoke to Danny as soon as _____ got home. (he, Mike)
- Take the dishes out of the cartons and put _____ downstairs. (them, the cartons)
- It was rude for _____ to boo the opposing pitcher. (them, the fans)
- The children and their parents agreed that _____ would be home before dark. (they, the children)
- After dinner _____ can enjoy dessert on the lakeside patio. (you, guests)
- The winner was stunned when _____ gave her the news. (they, the judges)
- Aunt Helen told Mom what _____ had been doing. (her children, our cousins)
- In the last year _____ may choose more electives. (you, students)
- Why do _____ always demonstrate oxygen masks? (they, flight attendants)

Exercise 2 Correcting Special Problems in Pronoun Agreement. Rewrite each sentence below to correct any problems in pronoun agreement.

EXAMPLE: Tasha told Annie that she must not be late for the party.

Tasha told Annie that Annie must not be late for the party.

- Why do they always make tests so hard?

- Sandy left the car in the garage without locking it.

- In that program, they expect you to do a lot of independent work.

- Paul told Steve that his bicycle had a flat tire.

- How do they make that product look so attractive?
